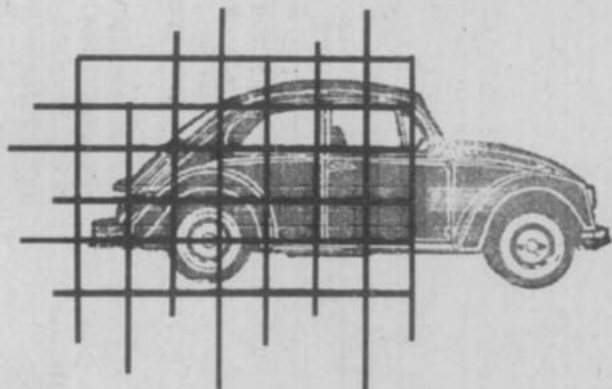


# THE DC GAZETTE

APRIL 1975

A MONTHLY REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE CITY

Q. What's the difference  
between a DC jail cell  
and a Volkswagon?



A. A VW  
is bigger.

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# DC GAZETTE

VOL VI NR 4 APRIL 1975

## DC EYE

WHILE THE METROPOLITAN area plows ahead with plans for the multi-billion dollar subway, New York City's Metropolitan Transportation Authority has announced that it will cut back service on its subways and buses because of a "very marked loss of ridership."

THE LOCAL PRESS quoted such notable sanitation experts as the city's corporation counsel on the court order calling for the closing of Incinerator #5 but downplayed the response of Gil Hahn, the lawyer who won the case. As a result the papers were filled with dire predictions of trash piling up in the streets, although Hahn contends that the Lorton landfill has adequate capacity and would save the city money, especially if private haulers hauled their own trash to the site.

THE GEORGETOWN POLL last month finds 39% of DCers giving a favorable rating to the mayor and 32% to the city council. The mayor runs over 50% only with the 60 year-olds and older. The folks who like the city council most are those 50-59. Forty percent of them gave the council a favorable rating. The mayor is least popular among 25-29 year olds (27%), 40-49 year olds (24%) and liberals and independents (33%). The council is least popular with whites (25%), those 60-64 (26%), independents (20%), those 18-39 (28-29%) and liberals (29%).

THE CITY COUNCIL budget quietly sent down the hall to the mayor calls for 108 positions. Forty-eight would be under Sterling Tucker, the remaining 60 would be divided up among the 12 other council members. Once again, council members are keeping their displeasure pretty quiet.

THE WASHINGTON POST has decided to try out a zoned edition for its Panorama section, beginning in July. It will print a separate section for each of the three major jurisdictions. If the Post doesn't waste the space on fluff pieces, it should mean a substantial increase in DC news space in the Post. It also means local advertisers could buy space in the Post at considerably less cost. They system has been used in other cities for some time but here the papers have been reluctant to try the zoned split.

ACCORDING TO CORRIE ANDERS in the Star, Cliff Alexander's civic activities since the election have been as follows: eight or ten appearances at high school or group assemblies, helping to raise money for a junior high school band, a weekly five minute commentary on WMAL-TV and a speech at WTI in which he listed twenty promises by the mayor and city council which had not been acted upon. The speech was not covered by the press.

## Turning government back to us

IN ONLY ONE RESPECT did the home rule bill give the city's residents something most other cities lack. Generally we remain far behind our urban compatriots elsewhere. The big exception was the law permitting the establishment of advisory neighborhood councils.

There are other cities with advisory councils. But the DC law is different. It contains within it, although the local political elite appears reluctant to talk about it, the power to set up true neighborhood government. The law permits the council to delegate what powers it wishes to the neighborhood councils and it permits the neighborhood councils to expend public funds for the general welfare of their communities, which is, after all, what government is largely about.

Although the councils are referred to as "advisory," the law allows them powers far exceeding that. The biggest question before the various task forces studying the NCs and the city government is whether the councils will be trapped into purely advisory roles or whether they will be permitted to grow into neighborhood governments. At the moment, there doesn't seem to be much enthusiasm at city hall for the latter course. In the neighborhoods there is much greater interest and there undoubtedly will be more as neighborhood groups discover what is in the law beyond the cautious interpretations given by various official interpreters of the act.

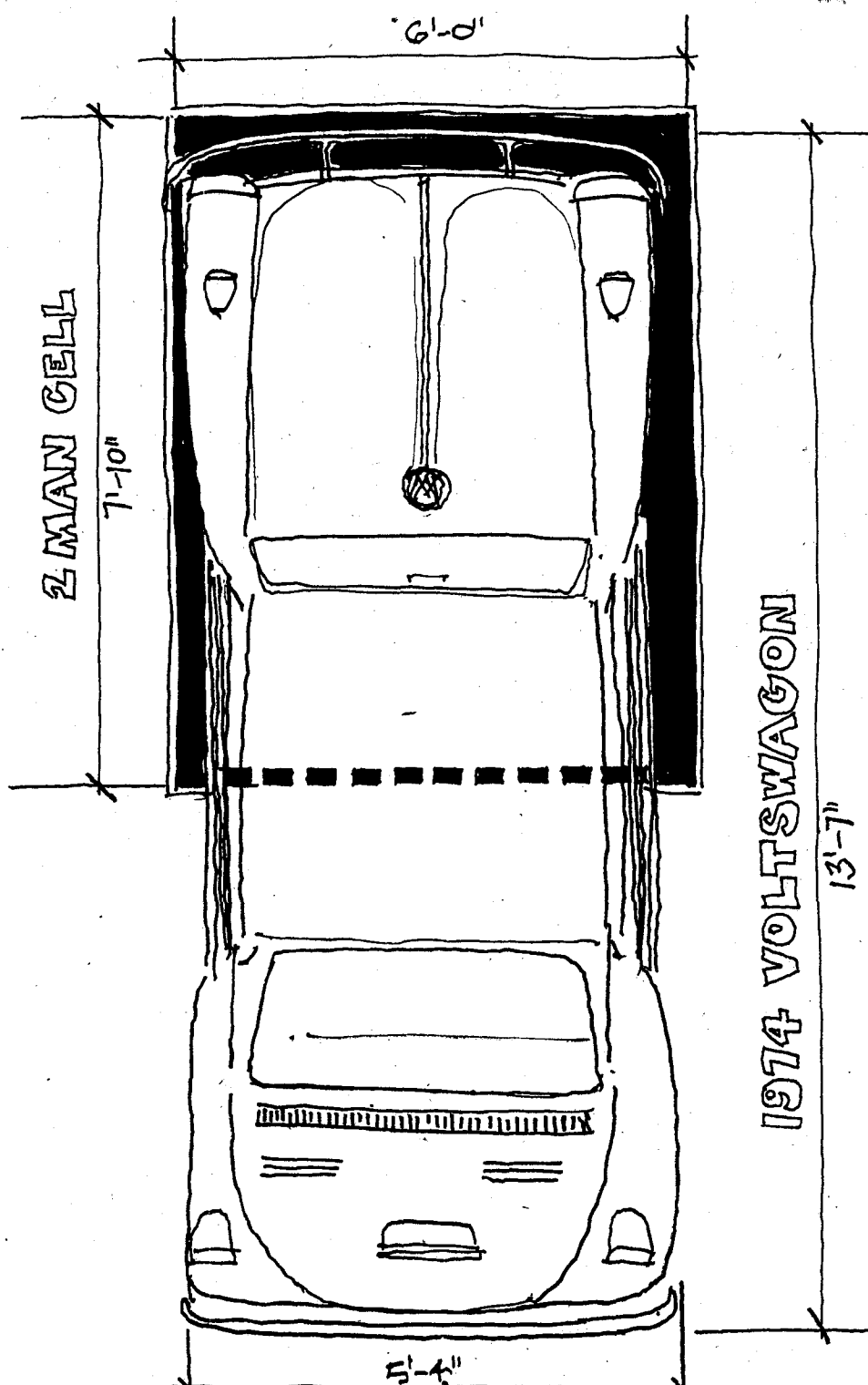
Which is exciting. The neighborhood government movement has been growing in major cities at least since the sixties. It has been fostered by the poverty program; the numerous battles against freeways, urban renewal and other planning disasters; and the realization that despite rapidly increasing city expenditures and bureaucracies, city government is not doing what it should. It is, in traditional urban political terms, a radical and subversive concept. For a century or so the trend has been to concentrate urban power, enlarge urban jurisdictions and remove urban residents from direct contact with responsible political officials — replacing these elected officials with hard-to-reach administrators whose decisions are made without concern for the consensus of those affected by them. This trend continues, countering the interest in neighborhood government, as urban bureaucracies come up with still grander schemes for consolidation and expansion. The push towards regional government with the granting of federal funds made contingent on the approval of regional bodies is a prime example. These bodies may be composed of elected officials but generally no one gets to vote for them as members of the regional groups. The elected officials appointed to agencies like the Council of Governments or Metro spend only a small portion of their time on regional issues; the real power in the regional government has become even more invested in the bureaucracy than is the case with city government.

There are many things that need to be done to make our cities better places and high on the list is the reintroduction of democracy. One of the most striking differences between the political situation of an urban resident and that of the citizen of a small town or rural community is the distance between the resident and an elected official with power. Even our well-meaning new city council members will soon find themselves drowning in their inability to deal with all the problems that develop, say, in a ward constituency of 90,000 people. Unless they discover some hitherto unknown cosmic power, they will bit by bit surrender their political responsibilities to appointed administrators in the District Building. There are only so many problems Willie Hardy or Polly Shackleton can handle in a day.

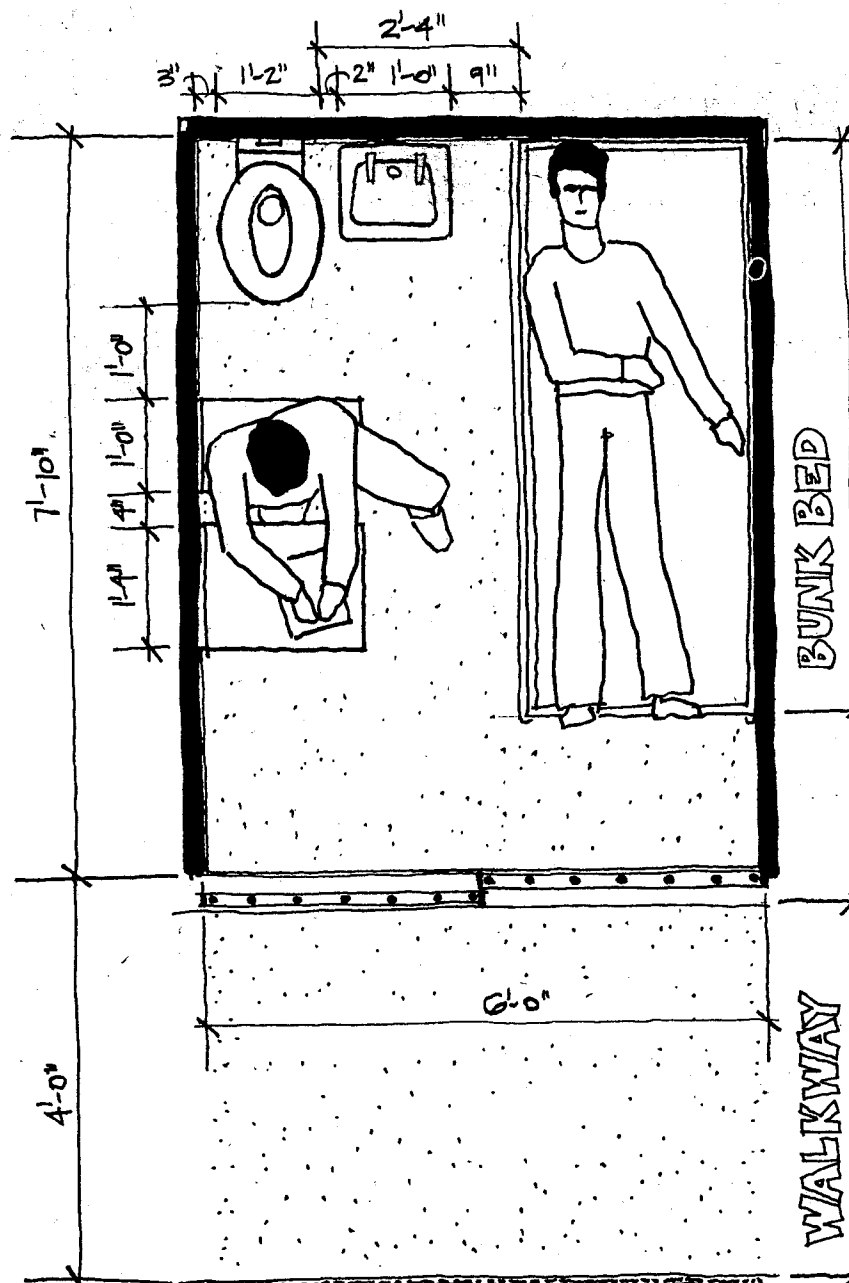
Neighborhood government offers an antidote to this chronic gap between what big city council members are supposed to do and what they can do. Once we kick the urban addiction to big bureaucracy as a solution to big urban problems, whole new ways of dealing with problems open to us. There is, after all, little reason to cling to the notion that the solution to our problems is to spend more money on

(Please turn to page 15)





THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN, AND COULD BE, SAID OF CONDITIONS AT DC JAIL. MANY WERE SAID AT A RECENT COURT HEARING ON A SUIT THAT DATE BACKS FOUR YEARS, INCLUDING THE TESTIMONY OF ARCHITECT RICHARD RIDLEY, WHO INSPECTED THE JAIL AND FOUND 95 VIOLATIONS OF 45 AREAS OF THE DC BUILDING, HOUSING, HEALTH AND PLUMBING CODES THERE. . .



SUCH AS RAW SEWAGE WATER DRIPPING FROM OVERHEAD PIPES INTO AN OPEN BUCKET IN THE JAIL KITCHEN. BUT THESE DRAWINGS BY RIDLEY TELL THE STORY AS WELL AS ANYTHING: A COMPARISON OF THE SIZE OF A TYPICAL TWO-MAN CELL AT DC JAIL WITH A VOLKSWAGON.

## DC budget — other cities do it cheaper

MAYOR WASHINGTON'S BUDGET is his dullest since he came to the District Building. Despite a total figure of \$1.4 billion including federal funds (that's \$1900 for each adult and child in the city), the regular budget has only \$10 million in new and improved services. The rest of the increase in the budget — 16% — is due to inflation and the growing cost of standing still. (There is one cheering note, however: the capital budget, at long last, is down, with a drop of 38%).

So if you're going to complain about the budget, you can just haul out the same complaints you made last year. Nothing much has changed. One of the things that we've complained about in the past has been enormous size of the DC government. Although the city has been slowly losing population over the past few years (it's now down to an estimated 739,000 people), Walter Washington has overseen a 25% growth in the number of people working for the city.

Why does it take so many people and so much money to run DC? The standard but not convincing answers are that the federal presence and the fact that the city must perform some state functions run up the costs. True enough, but by how much?

Fortunately, the twelve pounds of budget materials submitted this year give us some help in discovering an answer. Buried in the material are some official projections of what the federal presence costs us and what percentage of city functions are really state-like duties. Looking at these figures, it appears that the federal presence is largely a drag on potential revenue: the large amounts of untaxable land, lack of a commuter tax, insufficient room for industry,

etc. On the expenditure side the federal presence is far less important.

According to the figures, state functions amount to about a quarter of all expenditures, or 47% if you include public education. This looks like a pretty good excuse for high local budgets until you study the figures for those tasks that are traditionally local in nature. Using comparative data from seven other cities given in the budget data, discounting for costs or benefits from the federal presence, you find that the city operates on what is apparently a luxury basis. Some examples:

**Police:** DC spends \$122 per capita on its local police (who represent less than half the total police presence in the city). The figures for the other seven cities run between \$38 per head in Atlanta to \$79 in Boston. If we spent the seven city average, we would save \$48 million.

**Fire Protection:** DC spends \$40 per capita on fire protection. The figures for the other seven cities runs from a low of \$19 in Atlanta to a high of \$49 in Boston (Note: these are all 1973 figures). DC ranks second among the eight cities. We would save \$8 million if we spent only the seven-city average.

**Sewage and Sanitation:** DC spends \$67 per capita. The figures for the other seven cities runs from a low of \$7 in St. Louis to a high of \$68 in Atlanta. DC ranks second. The savings if we were to only spend the seven city average would be \$24 million.

**Highways:** DC spends \$40 per capita. The figures for the other seven cities runs from a low of \$14 in Cleveland to a high of \$61 in Baltimore, the contractor's favorite town. Again DC ranks second. The potential savings if we spent only the seven city average would be \$20 million.

**Parks and Recreation:** DC spends only \$18 per capita on parks and recreation, but when you add the percentage of benefit accruing from federal parks and museums the figure jumps to about \$29 per capita, placing the city third out of eight.

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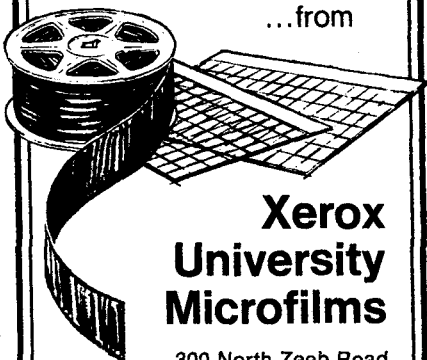
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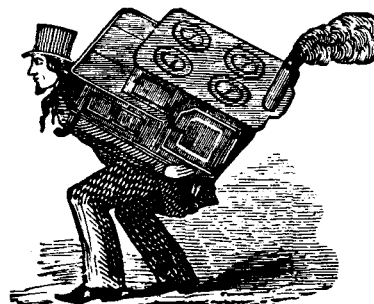
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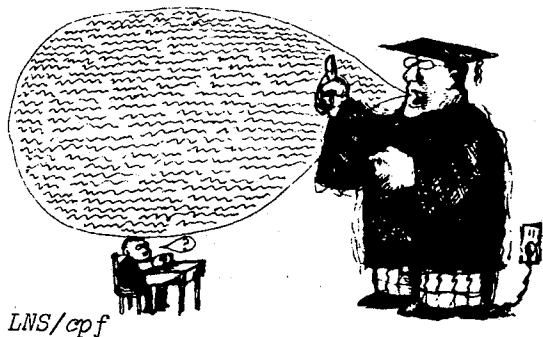
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"The Flanders Interaction Analysis System was used to codify the observations of 26 teachers at Francis Jr. High. Results were (1) Teachers tended to dominate all interactions, i.e. they talked about 54% of the time; (2) Less than 1% of the time did teachers verbally acknowledge or accept the feelings of students; (3) Observation of praise and using pupil ideas were limited to less than 3% of the time; (4) Criticizing of students or justifying their authority was observed 2% of the time. Suggested productive use of this data was to present this information to the teachers for consideration of changes."

— FROM THE MAYOR'S BUDGET.

The figures for the other seven cities runs from a low of \$11 in Cleveland to a high of \$40 in Atlanta. If we spent the seven city average we would have to add about \$4 million to the budget.

The per capita expense to DC of these five city functions is \$287, placing it first among the eight cities. The figures for the other cities run from a low of \$118 in St. Louis to a high of \$212 in Baltimore. If we spent at the same rate as

Baltimore we could save \$57 million on these five functions alone. If we spent the seven city average we would save \$96 million or nearly ten percent of the local budget, excluding federal grants but including the federal payment.

Obviously, there are some good reasons for not spending as little on some government services as some of the cities do, but the contrast is so striking that one must ask why is DC so uniformly expensive? The state-functions excuse wanes when one looks, for example, at public education, traditionally a state budget item. DC spent in 1973 \$1441 per student, second only to \$1573 for the San Francisco schools. The seven city average was \$1204. If we spent the seven city average, our schools' budget would be \$30 million lower than it is.

Now let's look at mass transit. We have one of the largest bus systems in the country, but we carry fewer passengers per bus than Chicago, Boston, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Montreal, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and San Francisco. For example, using figures from these cities between 1971 and 1973 we find that Milwaukee was carrying 129,000 revenue passengers per bus and San Francisco was carrying 117,000. Meanwhile the Washington system was carrying only 70,000, a low figure reflected in the deficits that the city must help pay. Bus driver salaries were the fourth greatest among the ten largest metropolitan areas. This is not a bad thing, until you combine it with the apparent excess of buses for the number of people carried, as well as with such other factors as the fact that a Metrobus breaks down every 1,890 miles while in cities of comparable size, such as Cleveland, the breakdown rate is one every 6,000 miles or the fact that the out-of-service rate for Metrobuses is 15% while the transit industry average is 10%. All these factors mean more taxes for DC residents.

How much is the city paying for inefficiency and a bloated bureaucracy? \$75 million? \$100 million? \$150 million? We won't know until someone starts asking the questions and demanding the answers.

## The Mayor's new taxes

**PROPERTY TAXES:** No change in the tax rate, but would implement tax relief measures contained in the Real Property Tax Revision Act of 1974.

**COMMENT:** These relief measures do not give adequate protection to homeowners from the tax effects of speculative increases in property around them due to either public or private action. The present property tax is unfair. It taxes only real property while other forms of property, such as stocks and bonds, go untaxed. (See the March Gazette for details). Further, there is no differential in the tax rate for commercial and private property, for large and small property-holders or for those who own only their own home and those who own large parcels of land. A progressive property tax that takes these factors into consideration is needed. Also a tax on land speculation, such as described in Dave Paris's letter in this issue, is needed.

**SALES TAX:** The 2% sales tax on food and non-prescription drugs would be removed. The sales tax on laundry would be increased from 2% to 5% producing \$750,000 in new revenues.

**COMMENT:** The elimination of the food and drug tax is highly desirable, but the city council should consider who is going to be affected by the laundry tax. The general sales tax is a regressive tax. This change only makes it more so.

**MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION:** The fee would be doubled. It would cost \$30 to \$50 more per car. New revenues would be \$12 million.

**COMMENT:** Although this conceivable could reduce car ownership somewhat, it would be largely among those who can't afford to pay the fee. Besides, DC's auto pollution problems largely come from non-DC cars. Marion Barry points out that the "increase may be very burdensome to those moderate income people who must depend upon their cars for late night jobs in remote areas or for other reasons." Barry, who is chairman of the city council's finance committee, thinks one alternative would be to increase the fees for large cars but not for small ones. He also has suggested that the excise tax on car sales could vary with the size of the car.

**MOTOR FUEL TAX:** Up from 8¢ a gallon to 10¢ a gallon. New revenues: \$5 million.

**COMMENT:** Barry has suggested a higher tax on leaded gas than on unleaded gas.

**MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE TAX:** From 5% to 6%. New revenues: \$1.8 million.

**COMMENT:** See under Motor Vehicle Registration

**BUSINESS PRIVILEGE GROSS RECEIPTS:** A new tax to be levied on the gross business receipts of all business activities whether conducted by corporations, partnerships, sole proprietorships, etc. The proposed tax is 1/2 of 1% on manufacturing and wholesale trade and 1% on the gross receipts from all other business and professional activities including doctors, lawyers, etc. It is estimated to produce \$61 million in new revenues.

**COMMENT:** As Jonathan Rowe of the Tax Reform Research Group points out, in some other locations the sales tax is known as a gross receipts tax. It is another way of achieving the same end. What this proposed bill amounts to is a one percent increase in the sales tax, which would be collected out of gross receipts rather than at the cash register. Rowe calls this a "lazy susan" tactic; things are spun around but the same people end up paying. This is the worst part of the tax package. If there is to be a gross receipts tax it should be limited to a tax on professionals such as lawyers and doctors who currently avoid taxation and who don't sell products. Lobbyists and public relations firms should be included. But even here, a more equitable system would be to base the tax on profits, not gross receipts. As for the present corporate income tax, even though the rates here are higher than in Maryland and Virginia, another percentage point could probably be added without chasing anyone out of town. Further, adequate enforcement of the corporate income tax could bring in substantial new revenues without any increase in the tax.

**BANK AND BUILDING ASSOCIATIONS GROSS EARNINGS TAX:** This would be increased by varying rates to produce \$5.6 million.

(Please turn to page 14)



TEACHER TRANSFERS Last spring John Eaton's principal, teachers and parents formed an education committee in line with Barbara Sizemore's PACTS initiative. Again in line with this initiative and the school board's school-by-school budgeting guidelines, we held eleven meetings to clarify and set budget and staffing priorities at Eaton and Hearst schools. These priorities were also in line with a survey of the total parent body which rated science and physical education as the special subjects most important to them in the education of their children. Our education committee's staffing subcommittee then met more than twenty times to interview prospective new staff and to observe them teaching, wherever possible. In this manner, and within the guidelines of our expected per-pupil allotment, we worked out what we considered the best possible balance in our educational program, based on multilevel grouping. We were justly proud of our work and of those teachers we had carefully hired.

When school started this fall, we discovered that a number of those teachers hired had not yet been certified and paid. Getting them processed turned out to take most of the fall and many trips to the Presidential Building.

On November 18 we were informed we were "out of compliance" due to a mistake in the reporting of our full-time kindergarten. Since no redress was possible, we would lose our kindergarten aide (leaving a single teacher for 42 children) and part of our science teacher.

In early December we were assured that "an error had been made" but that certain small shifts might still be necessary.

In mid-December we were informed that we would lose a bilingual teacher on the primary level in order to effect a more efficient utilization of the city's bilingual staff.

On January 3, we were notified we would lose 40% of the time of our science teacher due to our equalization problem. We were further notified we would lose another 10% of our science teacher's time, 50% of our physical education teacher's time, all of our half-time counselor and all of our one day a week speech therapist due to the system's need to comply with the Title I comparability guidelines.

On February 24 we were informed... we would lose both a second a third grade classroom teacher due to the budget squeeze which "required" the shifting of teachers most recently hired.

As a result of this last action, John Eaton's first through third grades will move from an average pupil-teacher ratio of 28:1 to an average ratio of 47:1, not counting the single bilingual teacher necessary to work with more than 50 Spanish-speaking children.

This series of crises and the resulting bleak alternatives will not be tolerated by our parents. We and our teachers are angry. Some of us are demoralized. Our children are confused.

# KEY VOTES

SHOWN BELOW are recent key votes by the City Council and School Board. (Record school board votes are, unfortunately, rare). + = a vote that agrees with our position. - = a vote that doesn't agree with our position. (Switch signs if you don't agree with our position). A = absent. NV = present but not voting. The percentage shown at right is the cumulative number of + votes this year. To help give an idea of where Walter Washington stands on all of this, we score him on those issues where has taken a clear stand or has signed or vetoed a particular bill.

VOTE #7: To suspend council rules to permit consideration of Matthew Watson as auditor. Opponents argued that there should be hearings on this important post, especially since the auditor is appointed for a term of six years. (+ = opposition)

VOTE #8: Vote to confirm Annice Wagner as people's counsel. Ms. Wagner has no background in consumer or utilities cases and appears to take a very legalistic attitude towards the job. (+ = opposition.)

VOTE #9: Vote to confirm Theresa Jones to the rent commission as a tenant's representative. It was pointed out that while Ms. Jones lived in public housing for many years, she is now a homeowner. Doug Moore said it was incredible that in a city of hundreds of thousands of tenants that a tenant could not be found to represent the tenants. Jones's close ties to the mayor were also criticized. (+ = opposition)

VOTE #10: Committee of the Whole vote on the confirmation of Sturgis Warner and Charles Fischer to the Board of Elections nominating commission. Between the mayor's and the council's appointments, there are four Democrats and one Republican. The city's number two party, the Statehood Party, is unrepresented as are independents. Further four of the members live in NW and one in SW. (+ = opposition)

COUNCIL MEMBER	VOTE #7	VOTE #8	VOTE #9	VOTE #10	CUMULATIVE + - A NV	RATING %
Marion Barry	A	-	-	+	2-5-2-1	20%
David Clarke	+	-	-	A	3-6-1-0	30%
James Coates	-	-	-	A	1-8-1-0	10%
Arrington Dixon	-	-	-	-	2-8-0-0	20%
Willie Hardy	-	-	-	+	4-6-0-0	40%
Julius Hobson	+	+	+	+	6-4-0-0	60%
Doug Moore	-	-	+	-	2-8-0-0	20%
Jerry Moore	A	A	A	-	1-5-4-0	10%
Polly Shackleton	-	-	-	-	3-7-0-0	30%
William Spaulding	-	-	-	-	0-8-0-2	0%
Sterling Tucker	-	-	-	-	0-10-0-0	0%
John Wilson	-	-	+	-	2-7-1-0	20%
Nadine Winter	-	-	-	+	3-7-0-0	30%
Pros	9	11	8	7		
Cons	2	1	3	4		
Walter Washington	NA	-	-	NA	0-5	0%

## SCHOOL BOARD VOTES

VOTE #1: FY 1976 Budget. (+ = support)

BOARD MEMBER	VOTE #1
Bettie Benjamim	-
Therman Evans	-
Julius Hobson Jr.	+
Elizabeth Kane	+
Raymond Kemp	+
Hilda Mason	+
Virginia Morris	+
Carol Schwartz	+
Barbara Simmons	-
William Treanor	+
John Warren	-
PROS	7
CONS	4
Barbara Sizemore	-

Our schools are not warehouses filled with interchangeable parts. Instead, our experience at Eaton has shown us that a very special bond is created between a particular teacher and his or her children, which inspires them in their work and in their relations with each other. The disruption of this stable relationship, which is the backbone of our children's motivation to learn, is something we will not allow.

ELEANOR S. SZANTON  
President  
John Eaton PTA

Since this letter was written the last of the teacher transfers has been temporarily halted. The problem, however, still remains. - ED

UDC AND LAND TAXES Being neither a politician nor a prima donna, I really lack interest in who receives credit for originating the idea of a graduated real estate capital gains tax designed to discourage housing pseculation (Letters to the Editor, February Gazette). However, the tax, first implemented in Vermont



in 1972 as a campaign promise of Tom Salmon, was intended to stem the tide of ski developments and second homes replacing Vermont farmland. Since I only lived in Vermont for a short time in 1972, for evaluating the tax's success I rely chiefly upon reports of widespread acceptance and its success in accomplishing the objective of lessening speculation.

The Ecology Center has always been dedicated to bringing the expertise of the largely rural conservation movement to the urban setting of DC. Another strategy pursued in rural areas also warrants investigation of its feasibility in the big city. For years easements and the deeding of development rights into trust status have been employed to preserve farms and other large acreages the owners of which face increasingly burdensome taxes due to rising land values. If such authority were allowed in city statutes, this means could be employed in DC neighborhoods facing rezoning and/or development pressures (for example, the areas adjacent to subway stops).

With each piece of property comes specific rights — development rights, air rights, mineral rights etc. In the case of strip-mined land, the coal companies often purchase only the mineral rights, but of course leave little remaining. In order to avoid the higher assessments based upon the higher use possibility, a homeowner living on a lot with higher zoning than that in use might deed over the unused development rights to the city. Of course, the value of the land would be diminished along with tax bills; for some this would not be acceptable. This and other mechanisms for voluntary downzoning would serve ecological and preservation purposes.

I would also like to take this occasion to begin critical discussion of two damaging measures supported by many well-meaning activists. Both the concept of an urban development corporation and that of property taxation of land (but not buildings) are approaching the sacred cow status of the Metro subway (a boondoggle) and rent control (a bureaucratic rip-off). For example, the platform of the DC Statehood Party (not to be confused with that of the Gazette) endorses both concepts.

The UDC mechanism, as pointed out in a past issue of the Gazette, provides a back door method of issuing city bonds, unaccountable in real terms to the City Council, let alone the voters. A recent biography of Robert Moses (Moses, by Robert Caro) sets forth in minute detail how Moses created personal fiefdoms out of New York City and state quasi-governmental authorities which became unaccountable to either citizenry or government, just like Metro or the proposed development corporation. Despite recent attention in New York publications to the New York Urban Development Corporation now floundering on the edges of bankruptcy, New York still has 150 state-corporate authorities within its boundaries which threaten to break the financial back of the state with a \$4.2 billion debt. As for the New York UDC, which was created in 1968 and was given the power of eminent domain, the power to override local zoning, and the power to float bonds backed by the "moral obligation" of the state, the result was over \$1 billion in debt. Moral obligation bonds, invented by former Attorney General John Mitchell during earlier halcyon days when he was a whiz on Wall Street, placed a moral rather than a financial obligation on a jurisdiction to pay its debts. A question of morality and constitutionality, however, is raised by giving a corporate-state entities such as the proposed DC development corporation, the power to issue bonds backed by the

## Swampoodle's Report

THE City Council went on retreat last month. It has now been on three retreats. One at Annapolis, one in Gaithersburg and the other in the city council chamber.

FROM SWAMPOODLE'S NEW REVISED DICTIONARY: A Cleveland Park activist — someone with a "Be a Fonz" bumpersticker.

WE have a new city auditor: Mat Watson. When he was confirmed, they took him into Sterling Tucker's office and had drinks. When he was sworn in, they took him into Sterling Tucker's office and had drinks. Looks like the first thing Watson better audit is Sterling Tucker's expense account.

THERE has been alot of talk about the federal government taking over Lorton. There has been alot of talk about the DC government taking over St. Elizabeth's. Why don't they just move St. Elizabeth's to Lorton and vice versa and make everyone happy?

QUESTION OF THE MONTH: how can a mayor with so much sinus trouble be so unconcerned about air pollution?

*Joshua X. Swampoodle*  
Purveyor of split infinitives for over 35 years

moral reputation of the city rather than by voter approval (not to mention the power to condemn land). As reported in the January issue of New York Magazine, the current New York comproller, Arthur Levitt, has called moral obligation bonds "bad financing" and "offensive." Clearly there is only a subtle difference between robbing the taxpayer with "moral" rather than with "full faith and credit" obligations; the end result will include throwing poor (and not so poor) people out in the street, despite the humanitarian rhetoric of the urban renewal ilk.

Property taxation of land (and not buildings) is pushed by some as an answer to speculation, housing supply shortages and as a step on the path to socialism. Instead, this taxation measure would serve as a big bonuses to developers because the bulk of the value of the most-utilized commercial sites is found in the structure. Taxation of land might indeed encourage greater housing supply, because owners would be taxed regardless of development of their property and therefore would opt to either sell or develop. However, the increased supply of land for sale would probably reduce the price of land in general thereby lowering tax revenues generated. Further, complications of a social and environmental nature would result from the increased development induced by a structure amounting to a tax cut for buildings owners, and by reducing land acquisition costs faced by would-be developers.

DAVID B. PARIS  
Executive Director  
Washington Ecology Center

THE RAZING OF It is ludicrous that the DUNBAR nation's capital prepares HIGH SCHOOL to celebrate the coming Bicentennial with a proposal by the Mayor, seemingly support-

ed by the DC Council and the Board of Education and the District's Non-Voting Delegate, to raze the last tangible evidence of the struggle of Black people in this city to educate themselves.

There was a time when the city's schools were segregated, when Black youngsters were taught to emulate and take pride in those of their race who had accomplished in the face of overwhelming odds and adversities. Now we teach them that the Drews, the Hasties, and the Weavers are something called "middle class," and that is now something to be ashamed of. We wear afros and dashikis as an outward manifestation of pride in our cultural heritage but we propose razing our historic landmarks. We are indeed inconsistent in our thinking and rationale.

I am disturbed when, at the beginning of February, the Mayor joins in a celebration of the proclamation to expand Black History Week to Black History Month and on the very last day of the month's observance he submits a proposal to the City Council to raze the Dunbar High School. I am disturbed when Black elected officials find it necessary to drag out once again the argument of the "house nigger" versus the "field nigger," a syndrome from the plantation.

I will try to excuse the apparent lack of knowledge of this city's history and the contribution of Black people to it, demonstrated by some of the comments reported in the press, since nowhere in this city's school system is the history of Washington DC and its people taught. But did you know that:

- This free public school system was built partly from funds derived from taxes levied on the sale of slaves in the city of Washington while President Thomas Jefferson presided as President of the Board of Trustees for the District's schools — which only open their doors to white youth?

- The first schoolhouse for Blacks was founded in the southeast section of our city in 1807, not by "middle class" Blacks, but by three former slaves who had just purchased their freedom?

- The Reverend John F. Cook, who founded Dunbar (then called the Preparatory School) in the basement of the 15th Street Presbyterian Church was a former slave?

It should surprise no one that a student who has been denied the opportunity to learn the history of this city, and the contribution of his people to it, should express preference for a football field, for Americans have been taught to respect the prowess of athletes; they have not been taught to take great pride in or respect their history.

LOUISE DANIEL HUTCHINSON  
Anacostia

THE next four pages are a new supplement to the Gazette, The ABDC Book, a monthly record of important data about the city. We suggest that you pull out this section, cut the upper fold with an envelope opener and insert the pages in a loose-leaf notebook. This way you will have a permanent file of useful data otherwise hard to find, plus updates to the Gazette Guide. If you would like additional copies of the ABDC Book sent with each issue of the Gazette, let us know and we'll bill you at the rate of \$2 for each additional copy sent.

# A PIRG Guide to Tenant Rights Under DC's Rent Control Law

Rent control began for Washington immediately after the mayor signed the regulation on August 1, 1974. It is a short run, designed to protect tenants from excessive profit seeking, while allowing landlords increases which reflect rising costs and inflation. Tenants can use the new law to a) contest present unfair rents; b) fight future increases; c) oppose maintenance and service cuts; d) defend against unfair evictions; and e) enforce the housing code. But this law can work only if tenants know how to use it. This page is a mere summary, the ABC's of rent control, which spells out the basic elements of rent control for D.C.

## FAIR RENT LEVEL

**A** 74% of D.C. residents are renters; and almost half should qualify for a rent decrease under the law's fair rent level. These are the steps to calculate fair rent level:

1. Find out the rent for your apartment unit for Feb. 1973. It does not matter where you lived, because rent control applies to the unit. The law requires landlords to provide this information upon request.
2. Multiply this Feb. 1973 rent by .1232 to get the dollar amount increase permitted landlords by the law. example: If your Feb. 1973 rent was \$150;  $\$150 \times .1232 = \$18.48$  increase since Feb. 1973 (a 12.32% increase).
3. Add this maximum legal increase to the rent charged in Feb. 1973. example:  $\$150 + \$18.48 = \$168.48$ . This sum is the maximum rent you should be paying now.
4. If this sum is less than the rent you are paying now, you deserve a decrease. Your landlord should have notified you of a decrease by August 26, 1974. If not, the landlord has broken the law.
5. If you are given an increase you think you don't deserve, or if the landlord does not tell you the correct Feb. 1973 rent, call the Rent Commission (Telephone no. is 347-4452). If you pay rent which was due after Aug. 1, 1974 and it's too high, you can later get it refunded through the Rent Commission. You can choose not to pay the rent if you believe it is excessive, BUT YOU MUST PLACE IT IN A SPECIAL "ESCROW" (OR SAVINGS) ACCOUNT until the Commission resolves your dispute.

## POOR CONDITIONS

**B** If your building is in poor condition (if there are substantial housing code violations) or if your services or liv-

ing space have been reduced, you can oppose any attempt by the landlord to increase the rent. You can also petition the Rent Commission for a rent decrease, even if the landlord has not tried to increase the rent.

## FUTURE INCREASES

**C** It is possible for landlords to get legal rent increases above the "fair rent level" described earlier. If you are notified, as you must be, of any of the increases described below, you must seek legal advice or report to the Rent Commission in order to oppose the increase. You do have a right to a hearing.

1. Landlord's Hardship. If the landlord can prove that costs are higher than rents at the fair rent level can pay for, the Commission may allow a further increase. But the law gives tenants the right to see the landlord's cost information and to contest the need for such an increase.
2. Capital Improvement. Landlords may also get increases for costs of building improvements. But tenants can oppose on the grounds that the improvements do not serve their interests as tenants of the building.
3. Uniform Rents. If an apartment is vacated after Aug. 1, 1974 and its rent is below the rent level of others of the same size, its rent can be increased to equal the rent of similar sized apartments in the same building.
4. Substantial Rehabilitation. If the landlord can qualify improvements as "substantial", there can be an automatic increase of 125% over the fair rent level for that unit. (The improvements must have been completed after Feb. 1973.) "Substantial" rehab. means improvements costing over 50% of the bid. estimated market price before the rehab.

## EVICCTIONS

**D** Landlords must now have a good reason for evictions and must state them in the notice to quit the premises. Such reasons are listed by the rent control law:

1. Failure to correct a violation of tenant's obligations to the landlord within 30 days of being notified. (check your lease)
2. Use of apartment for an illegal act.
3. Immediate personal use by the landlord.
4. Sale of apartment for immediate personal use by the new owner. This includes condominiums, in which case tenants should have at least 180 days' notice.



5. Substantial rehabilitation or repairs. If the landlord's plans qualify as "substantial", the tenant must have 120 days' notice. If the repairs are required for housing code purposes, the tenant can return for the rent previously charged.

6. Demolition or change to commercial usage. Tenants can contest whether these reasons are true in Landlord & Tenant Court. TENANTS ARE ALSO PROTECTED FROM EVICTION BECAUSE THEY COMPLAINED AGAINST THE LANDLORD. To be safe, tenants facing eviction should contact a lawyer immediately.

## Basic Questions . . .

**Q.** When did rent control take effect?  
**A.** It took effect the first date rent was due after August 1, 1974.

**Q.** Whom does rent control cover?  
**A.** It covers all tenants with the following important exceptions: occupants of public housing, federally owned or subsidized buildings (FHA), college or school housing, hospitals or nursing homes, rooming houses, newly constructed units.

**Q.** Are tenants who complain protected from retaliation by the landlord?  
**A.** Yes. No form of retaliation is permitted, including retaliatory eviction or rent increases, decreases in services, harassment, violation of privacy, increased obligations or coercion. Tenants are protected if they complain to the landlord or housing inspec-

tor, file a petition with the Rent Commission, withhold rent (after an unsuccessful complaint), join a tenant organization or file a lawsuit. If you suspect retaliation, call the Rent Commission.

**Q.** Who enforces the rent control law?

**A.** Rent control is enforced by the newly established Housing Rent Commission. The Commission has an equal number of tenants and landlords who hear complaints. It also has a small staff to investigate and mediate complaints. The Commission should be appointed and fully operational by the end of October 1974.

**Q.** How soon can a tenant get an increase?

**A.** If your landlord is entitled to a rent increase, he still must give you a 30-day written notice showing his computation of the increase and a statement of housing code compliance. However, no increase can take effect until your present lease expires.

**Q.** What effect does Judge Moore's temporary order (issued November 8, 1974) have on tenants' rights under rent control?

**A.** The court order allows landlords who have rolled back rents after rent control went into effect to reinstate rents at the August first level. Before a landlord can increase the rent, he must give a ten-day notice to the tenant and he must have filed a hardship petition with the Commission stating his reasons for needing it. (The Commission automatically sends a copy to tenant.) Within 60 days the Commission will then rule whether the increase is justified. If it is not, the tenant will be reimbursed for the rent paid in excess with 5% interest on that amount. This order is being appealed. Contact us for current status of the case.

## WHERE TO GO FOR ASSISTANCE:

Tenants who believe their landlord is violating the rent regulation should seek advice on how to file a complaint. The following procedures should be helpful:

1. Call the Rent Commission or, if needed, a lawyer.  
D.C. Housing Rent Commission.....347-4452  
If you don't have a lawyer, call Lawyer's Referral Service.....223-1484

If you can't afford a lawyer, call Neighborhood Legal Services.....628-9161 or Law Students in Court.....638-4798 If you don't qualify for a free lawyer, Law Offices of Washington.....638-2600 If you are Spanish Speaking, call Ayuda.....387-4848 If you need a HOUSING INSPECTOR...629-4635

2. Ask to see the landlord's registration form to find out: Feb. 1973 rent; utilities which should be provided; amt. of security deposit; cost description of "substantial" rehab.; reported housing code violations; name/address of the owner and the D.C. agent of the owner. (Reg. form is available at Commission or from landlord.)

3. Report willful violations to the Commission. There is a maximum \$5000 fine for each willful violation.

4. **YOU SHOULD FILE A PETITION** with the Housing Rent Commission. Most D.C. tenants can benefit from filing this simple form. See box below for some examples of reasons for taking action against a landlord. You can check-off your reason on the form which is available at:

Commission Office or (for students) 1329 E St. N.W. at any PIRG office

Reprinted from actual Tenant Petition form

## II. REASON FOR COMPLAINT

I know or believe that (check or fill in the appropriate item(s))

6. The present rent of \$\_\_\_\_\_ or the proposed rent of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is higher than the law allows

7. The rent should be lowered because of

- a. Decreases in property taxes
- b. Decreases in operating or maintenance expenses
- c. Decreases in living space
- d. Decreases in furniture, furnishings or equipment
- e. Decreases in related facilities or services
- f. Deterioration of the housing unit or common areas other than ordinary wear and tear
- g. Failure to perform ordinary repair, replacement or maintenance
- h. Other (state)

8. The housing unit does not comply with the D.C. Housing regulations

9. The security deposit has been increased from \$\_\_\_\_\_ to \$\_\_\_\_\_

10. I did not receive proper notice of a rent increase or other action by the landlord

THIS INFORMATION COMES FROM DC PIRG, A LEADER IN LOCAL CONSUMER PROTECTION. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT DC PIRG AT 676-7388



## CITY INFORMATION

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

POLICE 911  
FIRE 911  
AMBULANCE 911  
POISON CONTROL 835-4080  
SUICIDE 629-5722  
RAPE 626-RAPE

## EDUCATION

## Regional Offices:

Region I Anacostia-Ballou 561-2399  
Region II Western Wilson 638-3131  
Region III Spingarn-Wilson 398-3098  
Region IV Dunbar-Eastern 629-6512  
Region V Cardozo-Roosevelt 291-8500  
Region VI Coolidge-McKinley 629-7145  
Two-W Program 785-8380

## HOUSING &amp; PLANNING

Municipal Planning Office 629-2686  
Housing Rent Commission 347-4452

## LIBRARIES

Administrative Offices 727-1101

## ZONING

Zoning Commission 629-4428  
Board of Zoning Adjustment 629-4426

## RECREATION

BACKGAMMON CLUB OF METRO WASH  
640 E. University Blvd. Silver  
Spring, Md. 439-3197

## MEDIA

## ALTERNATIVE PRESS

WASHINGTON NEWSWORKS  
PO Box 21026 20009 462-8172  
WASHINGTON TIMES  
2430 Penna. Ave. NW (#216) 785-5260

## CONSUMER

GROCERY GUIDE  
PO Box 794, Arlington Va. 22201  
NEIGHBORHOOD PRESS

CITY PARTISAN  
1825 Conn. Ave. NW 20009 332-5830

PRAXIS (Capitol Hill Action Group)  
1247 Ind. Ave. SE 20003

NEIGHBORS INK  
7705 Georgia Ave. NW 20012 726-3454

## MAGAZINES

CITYSCAPE  
Western H.S. 35th & R NW 20007

## CULTURAL

## ART

MUSEUM OF TEMPORARY ART  
1206 G NW

## DRAMA

FOUNDRY PLAYERS  
1500 16th NW 20036 659-5620

ASTA  
PO Box 512 Hyattsville, Md. 20782

WASH THEATRE LABORATORY  
1531 S NW 20009 338-9216

You can obtain a copy of the Gazette  
Guide to DC for \$2 from the DC Gazette,  
109 8th St. NE DC 20002

## PUBLICATIONS

1. CITYSCAPE: Written by students at Western High School, this new magazine explores past and present Washington neighborhoods, personalities and culture. Very well done, in the Foxfire tradition. \$2 from Cityscape, Western H.S., 35th & R NW 20007

2. 1974 DIRECTORY OF RESIDENTIAL CHILD-CARING FACILITIES SERVING THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. From Children's Foundation, 1028 Conn. Ave. NW (#614) 20036. (296-4451)

3. DATA RESOURCE BOOK, 1974-75. From DC Public Schools

4. STATISTICS ON DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA INCOME. From Dept. of Finance & Revenue, December 1974.

5. TAX BURDENS IN WASHINGTON DC COMPARED WITH THOSE IN THE NATION'S THIRTY LARGEST CITIES, 1973. Dept. of Finance & Revenue.

6. A COMPARISON OF TAX RATES IN THE WASH METROPOLITAN AREA, 1975. Dept. of Finance & Revenue.

7. COMPARISON OF MAJOR STATE AND LOCAL TAX BURDENS IN SELECTED WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA JURISDICTIONS. 1974. Dept. of Finance & Revenue.

8. STATE OF THE DISTRICT ECONOMY. Dec. 1974. Dept. of Finance & Revenue.

9. FY 1976 DC BUDGET. 12 pounds of materials from the Dept. of Finance & Revenue.

10. REVENUE STRATEGIES FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. Marion Barry's study of alternative revenue sources. March 6, 1975. From City Council Committee on Finance & Revenue.

11. 1976 DC BUDGET SUMMARY. The 12 pounds in item #9 reduced to manageable size. From the Public Affairs Office, DC Government.

## MEETING TIMES

## MONDAYS

City Council Committee of the Whole: 10 am  
TUESDAYS

City Council: 10 am except 730 pm, third Tuesday  
THURSDAYS  
Metro Board: 9 am

## FIRST MONDAYS

Model Cities Commission: 12  
FIRST WEDNESDAYS

RLA Board: 2 pm  
School Board community meeting: 730 pm

## FIRST THURSDAYS

NCP: 930 am (except May-June)

SECOND THURSDAYS  
NCHA Advisory Board

School Board: 730 pm  
RLA Board: 2 pm.

THIRD THURSDAYS  
Zoning Commission: 9 am  
LAST WEDNESDAYS  
Election Board: 2 pm

DELETE MEETING TIMES GUIDE P. 9

## CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES

## HOUSE DC COMMITTEE:

Democrats: Charles Dicks Jr., Chairman; Donald Frazer, William Stuckey, Ronald Dellums, Thomas Rees, Walter Fauntroy, James R. Mann, Romano Mazzoli, Les Aspin, Herbert Harris, Dan Daniel, Jerry Litton, Helen Meyner, Henry Nowalk, Philip Sharp, James Florio.

Republicans: Gilbert Gude, William Harsha, Stewart McKinney, Edward Blaster, Thomas Rallsback, Robert Daniel

## HOUSE DC APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Democrats: William Natcher, Chairman; Louis Stokes, Bill Chappell, Bill Burlington, K. Gunn McKay, Robert Giano, William Alexander, Edward Koch  
Republicans: C.W. Bill Young, Jack Kemp, Clair Burgener

## SENATE DISTRICT COMMITTEE:

Democrats: Eagleton, Chairman; Daniel Inouye, Adlai Stevenson, John Glenn  
Republicans: Charles Mathias, Dewey Bartlett, Jake Garn

## SENATE DC APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE:

Democrats: Lawton Chiles, Chairman; J. Bennett Johnston; Walter Huddleston.

Republicans: Charles Mathias, Richard Schweiker

HOUSE DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
Room 1310 LHOB 20515 225-4457

HOUSE DC APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
House of Representatives 20515 224-5121

SENATE DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
Room 6222 NSOB 20510 224-4161

SENATE DC APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
US Senate 20510 224-7280

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## RELIGIOUS

CLERGY AND LAITY CONCERNED  
1500 Farragut NW 20011 723-8273

FARRANGEN FELLOWSHIP  
4500 Conn. Ave. NW 667-7829

## WOMEN

JEWISH FEMINIST ORGANIZATION  
c/o Linda, 2456 20th NW 667-0719

SEE CREDIT UNIONS ALSO

## MISC.

MEMORIAL SOCIETY OF METRO WASH  
1500 Harvard NW 20009 532-3545

ASIAN BENEVOLENT CORPS  
2020 F NW 20006 245-0901

## NEIGHBORHOODS

## NORTH DC

WARD FOUR COUNCIL OFFICE  
806 Upshur NW 726-2222

## ADAMS-MORGAN &amp; DUPONT CIRCLE

DUPONT EAST COMMUNITY ACTION ASSN  
1816 15th NW N 232-3363  
D 872-0521

ALLEY LIBRARY  
1714B Seaton Place NW 20009

ADAMS MORGAN WOMENS EMPLOYMENT CTR  
2452 18th NW 20009 797-1418

## NEAR NORTHEAST

PUBLIC INTEREST CIVIC ASSN  
c/o New, 1200 E. Capitol 20002 544-5214

LINDEN PLACE NE BLOCK CLUB  
1235 Linden Place NE 20002 397-3229

# GUIDE UPDATE 2

**BUSINESS**

DOWNTOWN JAYCEES  
1341 G NW (#327) DC 20005 347-2100

**CONSUMER**

AUTOMOBILE OWNERS ACTION COUNCIL  
733 15th St. NW 20005 638-5550

**CREDIT UNIONS**

WASHINGTON AREA FEMINIST FEDERAL  
CREDIT UNION  
2452 18th St. NW 20009 232-5145

**ECONOMIC CHANGE**

DC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
1120 Conn. Ave. NW (#340) 20036 452-1030

INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL SELF-RELIANCE  
232-4108

**EDUCATION**

BOARD OF EDUCATION 737-1767  
415 12th NW 20004  
At Large Members: Barbara Simmons, Dr. Therman Evans, Elizabeth Kane.  
Ward One: Raymond Kemp  
Ward Two: William Treanor  
Ward Three: Carol Schwartz  
Ward Four: Hilda Mason  
Ward Five: Mattie Taylor  
Ward Six: John Warren  
Ward Seven: Bettie Benjamin  
Ward Eight: Julius Hobson Jr.  
Superintendent: Barbara Sizemore 737-5155

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CLEARING HOUSE FOR OPTIONS IN CHILDRENS EDUCATION (CHOICE)  
Summer School, 17th & M NW 20036  
DC ASSN. FOR LEARNING DISABILITIES  
3915 Livingston St. NW 20015 244-6861

UNIVERSIDAD BORICUA  
1766 Church NW 20036 667-7940

DC ADVISORY COUNCIL ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION  
2215 Fifth St. NE 20002 832-7211

**FUNDS-FOUNDATIONS**

DELETE STRONGFORCE GUIDE PAGE 7

STRONGFORCE  
2121 Deatur Place NW 20008 234-6883

**HEALTH**

COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION  
3308 14th NW 20010 265-2100

DC RED CROSS  
2025 E NW 737-8300

SCHIZOPHRENIA ASSN. OF GRTR WASH.  
11141 Georgia Ave. (#224), Wheaton, Md. 20902 949-3484

**HOUSING-PLANNING**

DELETE COALITION ON OPTIMUM GROWTH GUIDE PAGE 8

COALITION ON OPTIMUM GROWTH  
PO Box 4033 Arlington, Va. 22204 525-5835

**EMERGENCY SHELTER**

SALVATION ARMY WOMEN'S CENTER  
503 E NW 783-4050

GOSPEL MISSION (Men only)  
910 5th St. NW NA8-1751

CHRISTIAN INN  
1509 16th St. NW HU3-6116

HARTNETT HALL  
1426 21st NW 293-1111

**HUNGER-FOOD**

FOOD STAMP COALITION  
7202 Chestnut St. Chevy Chase Md. 20015 656-1780

ZACCHAUS COMMUNITY KITCHEN  
612 L NW 638-8678

SOME  
941 N. Capitol St. 737-4625

**LABOR**

UNITED FARMWORKERS  
7332 Piney Branch Road, Takoma Pk. Md. 587-0510

**LEGAL**

ATTICA BROTHERS LEGAL DEFENSE  
930 F NW 20004 783-1060

**POLITICS**

CITIZENS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
1225 K NW 20005 737-3702

12. CITY AIR. A report by the Council on Municipal Performance which found that DC has the worst air of 18 cities for which 1968-73 figures on five pollutants. From COMP, 84 5th Ave., NYC NY 10011

**HOUSE DISTRICT COMMITTEE HEARING TRANSCRIPTS**

Available from the House District Committee:

Usury Laws  
Counsel for Indigent Defendants  
School Board Authority & Finances  
Subsidy for Child Adoption  
Financing the Stadium  
Preventing Child Abuse  
People's Counsel

13. A BIBLIOGRAPHIC TOUR OF DC. From the Redevelopment Land Agency. Far from complete but contains some information not included in other bibliographies. For copies call 382-6818

14. WGTB-FM PROGRAM SCHEDULE. Available from WGTB-FM, 37th & O NW, DC 20007.

15. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU GOT UNTIL YOU LOSE IT: AN INTRODUCTION TO ACCOUNTING, BUDGETING AND TAX PLANNING FOR SMALL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS. Available from the Support Center, 1822 Mass. Ave. NW, 20036. (872-1822)

16. US CAPITOL BIKE REGULATIONS. Revised rules issued Jan. 2 prohibit bike riding on sidewalks in Capitol grounds. Call 224-9806 for a copy.

18. THE URBAN FOOD PROJECT. A proposal for ending the urban lack of connection with the production of food. Very interesting. By Frank Smith of the Institute for Policy Studies, 1901 Que NW 20009 (AD 4-9382)

19. POTOMAC RIVER BASIN WATER QUALITY STATUS AND TREND ASSESSMENT 1962-1973. A look at water quality in the area of a 12-year period. From the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, 4350 East West Highway, Bethesda, Md. 20014 (652-5758)

If you cannot obtain the documents above from the sources mentioned, you may review them at the Gazette office. Items #13,16 & 19 not currently available at our office. Please call for an appointment if you wish to read the material at the Gazette: 543-5850 after 2 pm.

## GOOD THINGS

BREAST CANCER SCREENING SERVICE: At preterm, 1990 M NW (298-7500). Services include thermography, manual examination and training in self-examination.

HIKING, BIKING, AND CANOE TRIPS: Led by the Potomac Area Council of American Youth Hostels, 1520 16th NW 20036 (462-5780).

ELDERLY MOTOR POOL: The Senior Citizens Area-wide Motor Pool, sponsored by Barney House, provides door to door transportation for elderly residents of DC with special needs. To request assistance or to volunteer to drive one hour a month, call SCAMP, 232-1354.

DAY CARE AT COURT: A free day care center is available to those with business at Superior Court. Children 18 months to 12 years covered. Operated by Friends of the Superior Court, the center is located at 309 E NW. It is open between 9 am and 5 pm Mon-Fri. Info: 783-2599.

## CITIFAX

### FY 1976 MAYOR'S BUDGET

FY 1975 <sup>1</sup> Estimated	FY 1976 Proposed
OPERATING FUNDS	
D.C. Funds including General Revenue Sharing	
\$ THOUSANDS	
9%	12%
25%	23%
24%	23%
2%	2%
26%	25%
3%	2%
5%	6%
9%	6%
82,529.5	124,736.1
231,974.0	242,507.2
223,121.2	252,530.4
15,758.7	17,886.6
234,895.3	271,584.5
26,177.4	27,434.1
57,010.0	70,487.8
49,067.0	65,380.6
200.3	59.0
920,733.4	1,072,606.3
TOTAL	

<sup>1</sup> Includes proposed supplemental request

FY 1975 <sup>2</sup> Estimated	FY 1976 Proposed
TOTAL RESOURCES <sup>1</sup>	
\$ MILLIONS	
17%	16%
19%	18%
21%	21%
1%	1%
30%	30%
3%	4%
4%	5%
210.0	227.0
237.2	245.3
266.5	296.3
17.3	17.9
366.9	412.1
41.1	54.1
60.1	73.7
49.1	65.4
1,248.2	1,391.8
TOTAL	

<sup>1</sup> Includes D. C. Operating Funds, Federal & Private Grants & Reimbursements from non-District agencies  
<sup>2</sup> Includes proposed supplemental request

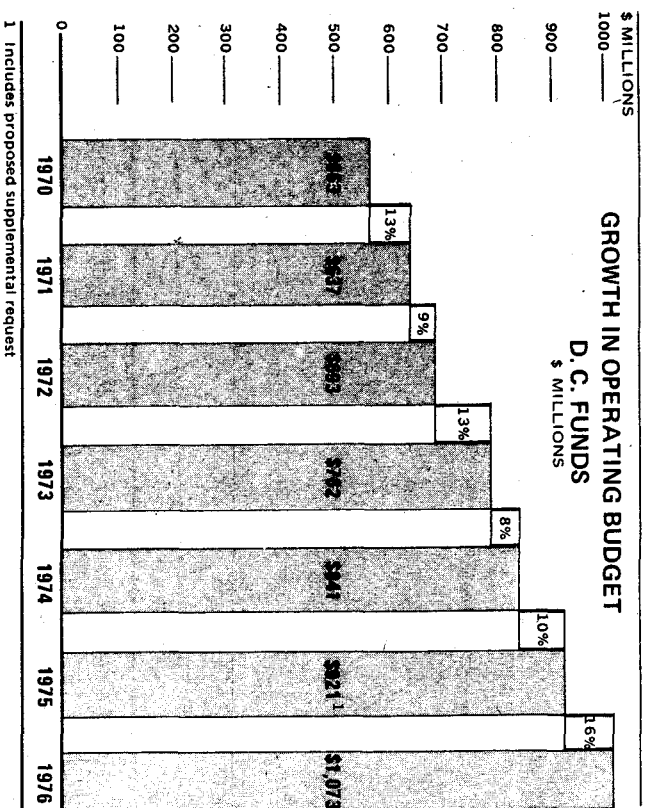
FY 1975 Estimated	FY 1976 Proposed
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM	
D. C. FUNDS	
\$ THOUSANDS	
10%	19%
29%	2%
4%	8%
23%	43%
6%	20%
4%	6%
20%	2%
20,992.5	24,292.8
58,284.9	2,475.0
7,943.1	10,277.4
47,502.1	55,480.2
13,305.0	25,220.0
8,497.1	8,341.3
41,092.5	2,469.3
7,300.6	128,556.0
204,917.8	TOTAL

<sup>1</sup> Excludes courts



# THE $AB_C^D$ BOOK

GROUPS & SERVICES - NEW PUBLICATIONS - GOOD THINGS - CITITFAX



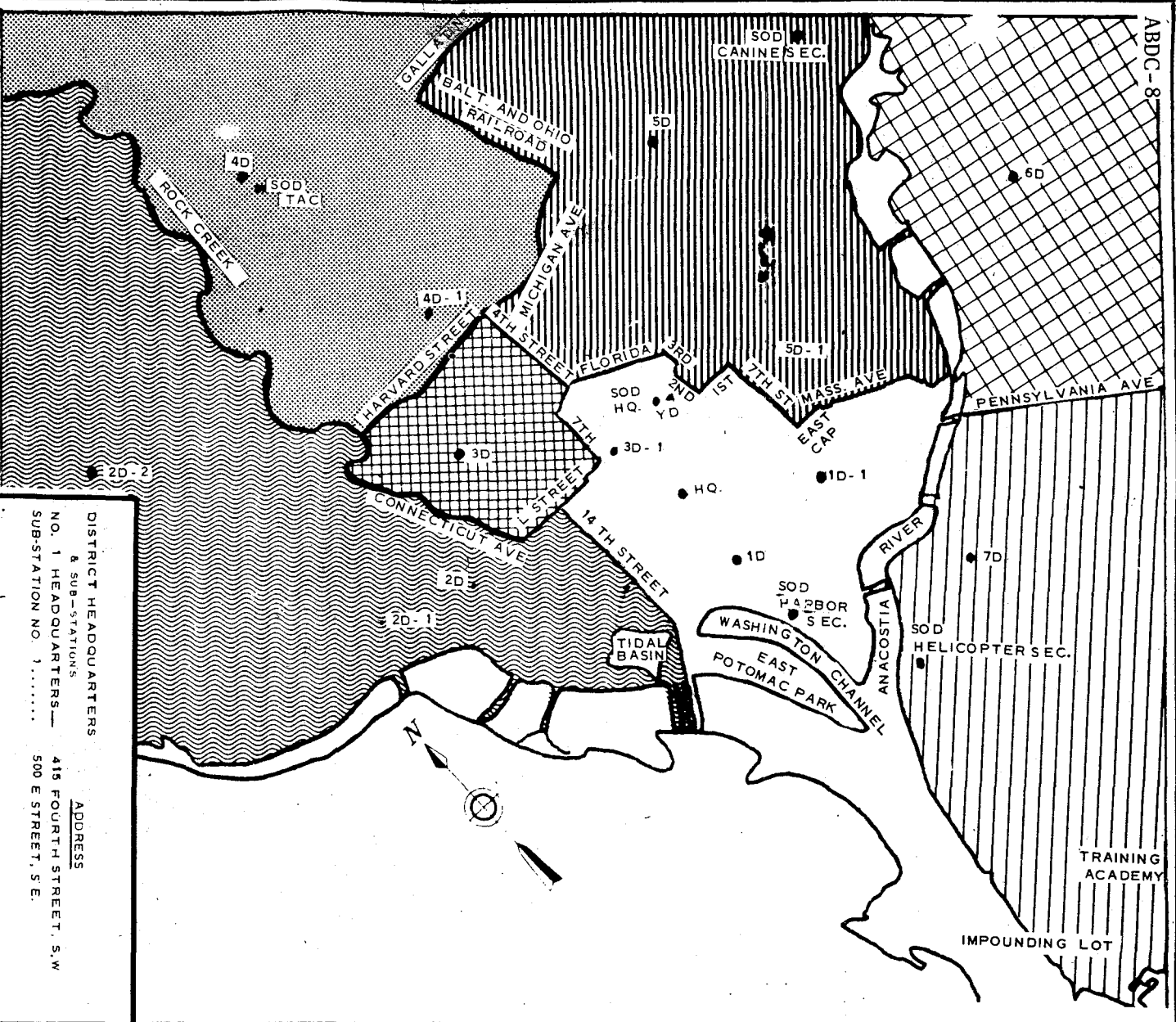
**1 Includes proposed supplemental request**

**ESTIMATED RESOURCES, BY CATEGORY, FY 1976**  
**D. C. FUNDS - OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST & RESERVE**

		\$ THOUSANDS
	14%	147,600 Property Taxes
	17%	186,200 Sales Taxes
		183,390 Income Taxes
	17%	122,390 Other Taxes, Fees & Charges
	11%	254,000 Federal Payment Authorized by P.L. 93-198 (12/24/73)
		25,000 General Revenue Sharing
	24%	59,250 Proposed New & Extended Taxes, Adjusted for Tax Relief & Reform
	2%	38,560 Proposed Increases in Taxes & User Charges
	6%	61,216 Cash Flow Factors & Deferred Items
	3%	
	5%	
		1,077,606 TOTAL

THE ABCD BOOK IS A MONTHLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE DC GAZETTE. IT IS AVAILABLE SEPARATELY AT \$4 A YEAR. MULTIPLE SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE ABCD BOOK ARE AVAILABLE FOR \$4 FOR THE FIRST ONE AND \$2 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL ONE SENT TO THE SAME ADDRESS. SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO THE DC GAZETTE, 109 8th St. NE, DC 20002

# POLICE DISTRICTS

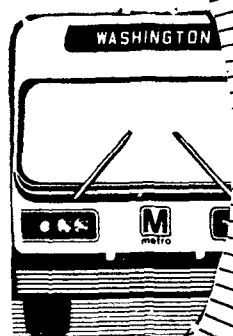


DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS	
& SUB-STATIONS	
NO. 1 HEADQUARTERS —	<u>ADDRESS</u>
SUBSTATION NO. 1.....	415 FOURTH STREET, S.W.
	500 E STREET, S.E.
NO. 2 HEADQUARTERS —	
SUB-STATION NO. 1.....	2301 L STREET, N.W.
SUBSTATION NO. 2.....	2319 VOLTA PLACE, N.W.
	4132 ALBEMARLE STREET, N.W.
NO. 3 HEADQUARTERS —	1620 V STREET, N.W.
SUBSTATION NO. 1.....	501 NEW YORK AVE, N.W.
NO. 4 HEADQUARTERS —	1351 NICHOLSON STREET, N.W.
SUB-STATION NO. 1.....	750 PARK ROAD, N.W.
NO. 5 HEADQUARTERS —	1700 RHODE ISLAND AVE, N.E.
SUB-STATION NO. 1.....	525 NINTH STREET, N.E.
NO. 6 HEADQUARTERS —	4135 BENNING ROAD, N.E.
NO. 7 HEADQUARTERS —	2301 NICHOLS AVE., S.E.
OTHER MPD FACILITIES	
SOD HEADQUARTERS	35 K ST., N.E.
SOD HARBOR SEC.	559 MAINE AVE., S.W.
SOD CANINE SEC.	2201 SOUTH DAKOTA AVE., N.E.
SOD HELICOPTER SEC.	U.S. NAVAL STATION
SOD TACT.	5720 GEORGIA AVE., N.W.
YOUTH DIVISION	25 K STREET, N.E.
TRAINING CAMP	4665 BLUE PLAINS DR., S.W.
IMPOUNDING LOT	BLUE PLAINS

# THE GAZETTE BOOKSHELF

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SEE NEXT PAGE

## THROUGH DC BY BUS

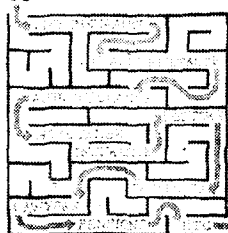


\$2



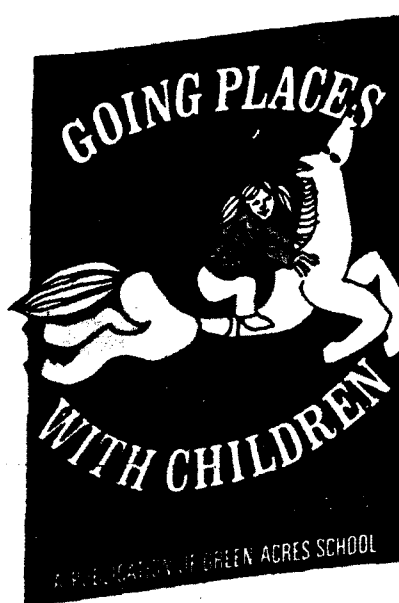
**My Child Won't Eat Right**  
A GUIDE TO BETTER NUTRITION

### THE SHOPPER'S GUIDEBOOK TO

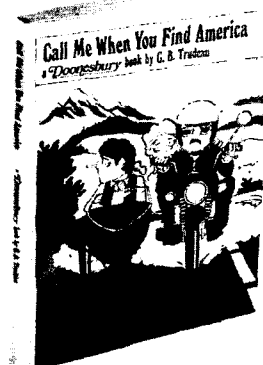


By HERBERT S. DENENBERG  
Former Commissioner  
Penalty Unit, Insurance Dept.

GOING PLACES WITH CHILDREN GREEN ACRES SCHOOL



### CORPORATE ACTION GUIDE



#### BOOKS ABOUT DC

★**MATERIALS FOR THE STUDY OF WASHINGTON.** This opinionated but knowledgeable annotated bibliography of books and publications about Washington is the most valuable thing of this sort to come along. Published by GW University. \$2.50.

**WASHINGTON TENNIS GUIDE.** A directory of area courts and services. \$1.95

★**FACTORY OUTLET GUIDE TO DC, MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA.** \$1.95

**GOING PLACES WITH CHILDREN.** Where to go and what to do in Washington. Published by Green Acres. \$2.50.

★**THROUGH DC BY BUS: THE GAZETTE GUIDE TO THE BEST BUS ROUTES IN TOWN:** We have cut through the maze of more than 400 Metro bus routes to show in simple maps where the most important and frequent bus routes go. \$2.

**A WALKING GUIDE OF HISTORIC GEORGETOWN.** Two walking tours with descriptions of Georgetown's major historical points of interest. \$1.50.

**GREATER WASHINGTON BIKE ATLAS.** Published by the local council of American Youth Hostels and the Washington Area Bicyclists Assn. \$2.00.

★**CAPTIVE CAPITAL: COLONIAL LIFE IN MODERN WASHINGTON.** By Sam Smith. Published by Indiana University Press. This unique look at non-federal Washington has been praised in newspapers as diverse as the Washington Post, the Afro-American and the Chicago Tribune. \$8.50.

**THE GAZETTE GUIDE TO DC:** Our fourth annual edition of this valuable listing of local groups and media. Now includes a special data section with census information, information on race, housing and taxes; a bibliography of books about Washington; results of recent elections and maps of taxi zones, ward boundaries, zip code areas and the racial and political composition of the city. \$2.

**THE DC GAZETTE:** Washington's controversial and hard-hitting alternative monthly. The paper that helped to kill the Eisenhower Convention Center and which introduced the concept of statehood to the city. Eugene Meyer in the New Leader: "the DC Gazette, whose main shortcoming is that it does not appear often enough." Jack Eisen in the Washington Post: "that useful journalistic gadfly." Lynn Dunston in the Star: "Provocative." Robert Cassidy in the Chicago Tribune: "an excellent community newspaper." Year's trial subscription: \$3.





# WHAT'S HAPPENING

**TAXI HEARINGS:** The Public Service Commission will hold hearings on taxi revenues on April 9 and on proposed changes in the fare structure on May 1. Hearings will take place starting at 10 am in room 314, 1625 I NW.

**STATE BANK HEARINGS:** Councilmember Nadine Winter plans to hold hearings on the possible creation of a state bank on June 18 and 19. Such a bank could be one of the most important proposals to come from the city council. The hearings will look into loan practices of private lending institutions.

**COMMUNITY INQUIRY ON APARTHEID:** A meeting will be convened sponsored by the Council of Churches and others on April 23 beginning at 7 pm in the Council chambers. Focus will be on Control Data, IBM, ITT and Motorola, four corporations making profits out African apartheid. Info: 483-0556 or Koko Farrow, 737-2600.

**GOOD SPEAKERS:** Karl Hess, one of the most imaginative thinkers in town, will speak on April 18 at 8 pm before the Eugene Debs Socialist Forum at the Marvin Center, GWU. On May 1, Dave McReynolds will talk on revolutionary socialism and violence.

**HEARING ON THE INCINERATOR:** The DC government wants to get around a recent court ruling ordering the end of the use of its incinerator by amending the city's air pollution regulations to permit the incinerator to keep going. There will be hearings on April 11 at 10 and 2 before the City Council on this matter. Gilbert Hahn, successful lawyer in the case, argues that the city could use the Lorton landfill, which has the capacity, and thus end the use of the highly polluting incinerator. To testify call Gwen Bohlke at 638-2223 or 629-3806.

**CHICKEN COOKING CONTEST:** There will be a chicken cooking contest at Woodie's downtown store on May 10, sponsored by the National Broiler Council. Info: 296-2622.

**LOCAL BACKGAMMON CLUB:** The Backgammon Club of Washington has programs on Wednesday and Friday nights. Info: 439-3197 or write them at 640 E. University Blvd., Silver Spring, MD.

## CITY REVENUE HEARINGS

April 3: Property tax and general comments. Government witnesses, 10 am. Public witnesses, 1130 am on.

April 4: Food and drug sales tax. Government witnesses, 10 am. Public witnesses, 1130 am. . . General comments of public witnesses, 3 pm on.

To testify call Virginia LoJacono, 638-2223 (x60) or 629-4623. Written testimony may be sent to Robert A. Williams, secretary of the council, room 509, District Building, DC 20004.

**JEWISH TRIBUTE TO FARMWORKERS:** 8 pm, May 11, Montgomery Blair High, Silver Spring. UFW speakers and entertainment. Tickets \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for students and senior citizens from Jewish Tribute, 420 University Boulevard, East, Silver Spring, Md. 20901.

**REORGANIZATION OF ARTS COMMISSION:** Polly Shackleton will hold a hearing on April 2 at 10 and 2 to receive testimony on a bill to establish an independent DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. The bill would remove the commission from the jurisdiction of the Department of Human Resources. Persons wishing to testify should contact Kate Levan, 638-2223 (ext 20). Written testimony can be sent to the Secretary of the City Council prior to April 11.

**CONSUMER REPAIR SURVEY:** The DC Public Interest Research Group and ADA are surveying the effectiveness of the new DC consumer goods repair law. If you have had a car, TV, radio or hi-fi repaired in the city since last December, you are requested to call 635-5787 to help in the survey.

**BLACK WOMEN ATTORNEYS MEET:** Second annual conference of the National Assn of Black Women Attorneys, the weekend of April 4-6 at the Statler Hilton. Dinner-dance April 5 with Judge Margaret Haywood as principal speaker. Tickets are \$15 each. Info: Wilhelmina Rolark, 347-9821.

**BIKE RALLY:** The Montgomery County Recreation Department has scheduled its second annual bike rally in Rock Creek Park for Sunday, May 18th. Info: Washington Area Bicyclist Assn, 223-0003.

**BIKE RODEO:** A bicycle rodeo will be held sometime in early May at the Rockville Civic Center. The rodeo will feature bike slaloms, snail races and coasting races. Info: Michael Tepping at 340-0050.

## CLASSES OF INTEREST

**STUDY program at the University of Aarhus, Denmark, Sept.1-Dec.12.** For undergraduates. Write Office of Special Sessions, American University, DC 20016.

**ANACOSTIA CONTINUING Education.** Classes currently under way at 3 locations under a new FCC program but future courses likely. Contact School of Continuing Education, FCC.

**WOMEN AS ENTREPRENEURS.** Two day conference to be held at Mt. Vernon College, April 23-24. Panels and workshops will concentrate on such subjects as starting your own business, part-time ventures, financing your own business and "the guilt of working parents and how to deal with it. Child care available. Register by April 15 by writing to Women as Entrepreneurs, Mt. Vernon College, 2100 Foxhall Road, DC 20007, or call 338-1068.

**HIGH SCHOOL INSTITUTES:CU** offers a variety of programs for high school students this summer including institutes on journalism, acting, math, archeology and anthropology. Write the appropriate department at CU, DC 20064 for details.

## Classifieds

Classified ads are 10¢ a word payable in advance. Deadline is the third Tuesday of the month. Send ad with check to DC Gazette, 109 8th St. NE, DC 20002

**DELAPLAINE, VIRGINIA,** foothills of Blue Ridge Mountains. Furnished all-weather modern country house. Sleeps eight comfortable, 1 1/2 baths, large screened porch, fireplace. Fifty wooded rolling acres, swimming pond. 1 1/4 hour drive from DC. Daily or weekly rentals year round. 835-4667 weekdays, 488-4262 evenings.

**THE PUBLIC VISITORS CENTER** needs free graphic design for publications and exhibits on consumer issues and Washington events. The publications, including consumer and tour brochures, a biweekly calendar, and logo, are distributed nationwide. If interested call Sarajane Johnson at 659-9053.

## AD RATES

\$2 per column inch  
\$22.50 per quarter page  
\$45.00 per half page  
\$90.00 per page

Half-tones & line art requiring reduction or enlargement: \$4 each. Make-up charges: \$15 per hour for ads not camera-ready. Commercial classifieds: 10¢ a word.

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Advertising in the Gazette is an inexpensive way of reaching 3000 active consumers. Check out the low annual rates for commercial notices:

One column by 1"= \$18.50  
One column by 2"= \$37.00  
One column by 3"= \$56.00

That's for a whole year. The only condition is that ads must be camera-ready and the entire amount must be paid with the ad.

DC GAZETTE  
109 8th St. NE 543-5850

## LOW INCOME RATES

If you earn less than \$7500 a year you may subscribe or renew to the Gazette for only \$2.50 a year. Use the form below:

DC GAZETTE  
109 8th St. NE  
DC 20002

Please ☐ start ☐ renew my subscription to the DC Gazette for one year. I enclose \$2.50. I earn less than \$7500 a year.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_



# Fighting PEPCO

DC POWER, a new coalition of citizen groups, is attempting to short circuit PEPCO's proposed 23% rate increase. DC Power hopes to harness public pressure to use to gradually influence Mayor Washington, City Council members and the Public Service

## NEW COUNCIL BILLS

### GOOD BILLS

- **RETURNABLE BOTTLE BILLS:** There are two bills in committee. The strongest is that introduced by Julius Hobson which would require a ten cent deposit on bottles, cans and plastic containers and would go into effect whether or not surrounding jurisdictions pass similar legislation. Another bill, introduced by Polly Shackleton would be patterned on the COG model legislation and would go into effect when surrounding jurisdictions have passed similar bills.

- **A BILL to prohibit the solicitation on tax returns of information regarding the identities of candidates and political committees to whom the taxpayer has contributed.** Introduced by David Clarke.

- **A BILL to end the current practice of handing out low number license plates as a political favor.** The tags would be given out on a first come, first served basis. Introduced by David Clarke and Marion Barry.

- **A RESOLUTION to amend the rules of organization and procedure of the council to require 30 day notice rather than 15 day notice on proposed legislative actions.** Introduced by David Clarke.

- **A BILL requiring the labelling of the price of each unit of drugs, cosmetics and personal care items.** This bill attempts to get at the arbitrary pricing practices of local drug stores uncovered by DC PIRG as reported in the March issue of the Gazette. Introduced by James Coates.

- **A RESOLUTION requiring that council employees live in the District.** Introduced by Marion Barry.

- **A BILL to eliminate the restrictions on vending in Georgetown and downtown, to prohibit the removal of vendor's licenses without a hearing, to permit street vending on the Mall and to reduce criminal penalties for violations.** Introduced by Doug Moore. Moore noted that "vendors have been chased and harrassed off the street."

- **A BILL to reduce the penalty for the possession of up to two ounces of marijuana to a fine of \$100, subject to a collateral payment without court hearing as in parking violations.** The charge would not be considered an arrest. Introduced by David Clarke and Arrington Dixon.

- **A BILL to repeal the law requiring every male high school student to participate in the cadet corps.** Introduced by Sterling Tucker at the request of the mayor.

### BILLS THAT NEED STUDY

- **A BILL TO EXTENSIVELY revise the child labor laws in the city.** Introduced by Sterling Tucker at the request of the mayor.

### BAD BILLS

- **A RESOLUTION appointing Walter Washington and Sterling Tucker to the board of Metro.** It would be hard to find two people short of Jackson Graham himself who have done less to represent the city interest before Metro. Introduced by Sterling Tucker.

- **A BILL changing the nature of the Rent Commission; requiring annual registration of rental units; permitting substantial rent increases; increasing the time for case dispositions and other matters.** Introduced by Nadine Winter. This bill is strongly opposed by the Citywide Housing Coalition which is fighting against the 8% additional rent increase permitted in the law, the provision that permits a large rent increase in cases of rehabilitation and the proposed changes in the structure of the rent commission. For more information, contact the coalition at 737-3703 (1225 K NW, DC 20005)

Commission to deny the rate hike. To compliment the lobbying effort, DC Power (which stands for People Organized to Win Equitable Rates) has assembled a team of public interest lawyers - Bob Stein, John Schell, Lawrence Smith, Mike DeMuoy and David Fleishaker, plus technical experts like Fred Wells, to present the 'consumers' case in the rate hearings before the Public Service Commission.

DC Power is seeking rate reform which will shift the economic burden associated with energy production from the small consumer to the large commercial users. Specifically, the consumer group will ask the PSC to institute "peak load or time of day" pricing systems with an inverted rate structure.

Inverted rates are designed to reduce demand and growth by penalizing large usage of energy. Charges would increase with power use. Under the peak load or time of day pricing designs any customer who adds to the system peak would be required to pay the cost associated with that use. The costs are higher to serve system loads at peak periods than during off-peak periods. In order to provide capacity for peak loads it is necessary to use less efficient production units during these times. Generally PEPCO's costs are determined more by the demand for electricity than by the total amount of electricity consumed. Therefore, peak load pricing would tie prices more closely to costs.

The most effective peak rate design would be responsive to daily, rather than just seasonal peaks. The time-of-day pricing concept would be a more precise method and it would also be consistent with the principles of long run incremental cost. Consumers could reduce cost of their usage by changing the time of that usage. Customer service classification could be eliminated for energy and demand charges, since the cost of generating electricity at any particular time would be the same regardless of who uses it.

Another consumer reform advocated by DC Power is the creation of a "life line" rate to insure that the electrical needs of low income and elderly consumers living on fixed incomes will not be priced beyond their economic capability. A life line provision would provide a basic amount of electricity at a reasonable rate which would not be subject to rate increases and the cost of this service would be offset by those customers using more than the basic amount.

On the political front DC Power demanded that Mayor Washington nominate consumer-oriented individuals to the Public Service Commission and the office of People's Counsel to the PSC. But true to form, Washington's nominees - attorney Ruth Hankins-Nesbitt and Annice McBryde Wagner, former general counsel of the National Capital Housing Authority - have no experience in either consumer affairs or with public utilities. Washington has reacted to criticism of Nesbitt and Wagner by indicating that it is extremely difficult for black women attorneys to develop background in consumer affairs or the public utilities field because of discrimination. A thorough analysis of the mayor's motives, however, might reveal that Washington is attempting to split the consumer movement under the guise of e-

### NEW TAXES CONTINUED

*COMMENT: Again, this tax would probably be passed directly through to the persons using the banks and other loan institutions. A profits tax would work better.*

**PUBLIC UTILITIES GROSS RECEIPTS TAX:** Up one percent to 6% to produce \$ million more.

*COMMENT: Barry says: "Presently we have a 5% tax on utility consumption, which is quite a regressive tax. Perhaps we could replace that tax with a tax only on above average consumption of electricity use."*

**DEED RECORDATION TAX:** The deed recordation tax would be increased from one-half a percent to one percent, producing new revenues of \$2.6 million.

*COMMENT: This hits people buying their own home and developers and speculators alike. It would be better to have a progressive rate here or raise the revenues some other way such as the land speculation tax suggested above.*

**WATER AND SEWER SERVICE CHARGES:** Up 21% for small users and 49% for large users to produce \$7.5 million.

*COMMENT: Consideration should be given to "life line" rates, providing a minimum of service at low cost, similar to the proposal made by Anton Wood in his article on PEPCO elsewhere in this issue.*

**INCOME TAX:** Child care would be allowed as a deduction. In addition, standard exemptions would be changed to conform to federal exemptions. The current personal exemption is \$1,000 and \$500 for dependents, but would be changed to \$750 per exemption.

*COMMENT: The child care deduction is very necessary.*



qual opportunity, in an effort to protect such PEPCO board members as L.A. Jennings (Riggs Bank and C & P), Theodore Hagans Jr. (RLA's minority developer) and Joseph Danzansky (Giant and C & P Telephone), all of whom contributed heavily to his election campaign.

Wagner admitted that she had no experience as a consumer advocate, but she said that as a lawyer the code of ethics and conduct bound her to operate in the best interest of her client, you and me. During the confirmation hearings, Wagner refused to comment on several important questions asked by council members. She refused to give a yes or no answer to the question of whether PEPCO should be publically owned. Next, Marion Barry asked Wagner to provide the council with a list of landlords whom she had represented in Landlord-Tenant Court. She refused on the grounds that such information violated lawyer-client confidence, even though such information is clearly a matter of public record. She later listed several clients who had agreed to being identified. Chairman Tucker asked how Wagner would serve as an advocate outside her duties as a lawyer before the PSC and again she could not respond.

The major problem with the Wagner and Nesbitt appointments is the lack of a record in the consumer protection or utilities field. Furthermore, both Wagner and Nesbitt view the PSC and the People's Counsel Office in legalistic terms. They perceive the commission work as a matter of legal briefs, oral arguments and impartiality, instead of using the PSC as a vehicle for developing new mechanisms to address energy issues or such other matters as phone and taxi service.

— ANTON WOOD

## Parking ban

DC residents can now petition the city council to limit commuter parking in their neighborhoods. John Brophy, head of the parking division of the Highway Dept., says that if Congress appropriates money for it, the residential parking program could be in full swing "shortly after July 1."

To initiate the ban, a majority of a neighborhood's residents must petition the city council. If a hearing determines that a neighborhood is an impacted area — one in which 70% of the street parking is used with 10% of the cars belonging to non-residents — the council would limit parking. Residents would receive small, color-coded stickers allowing them to park in their area all day.

Brophy says the Highway Department has informally looked into nine areas already. He says the ban is needed because residents have to park "five to six blocks" away from their homes, and commuter vehicles increase air pollution and traffic congestion.

The ban, passed by the city council last year, would limit commuter parking in impacted areas to two hours between 7 am. and 630 pm. Brophy says impacted area residents would pay a \$5 to \$10 fee the first year and the total cost of the program would be close to \$165,000.

The original budget of \$860,000 included a meter maid system, but Congress rejected it. Brophy predicts "the program will fail without meter maids." Police chief Maurice Cullinane has said he will enforce the parking ban, but citizen groups and individuals are concerned that police will not be able to handle it. Suburban groups and local congressmen oppose the program, some on legal grounds. They contend commuters have as much right to parking on city streets as residents.

Programs limiting commuter parking in residential areas are in use in Boston, Cambridge, Richmond and parts of Arlington and Montgomery counties. — VERONICA H. FOLEY/AMERICAN NEWS SERVICE

## Neighborhoods Continued

the form of government that has increasingly shown its inability to deal with them. To say that because the crime rate is rising sharply we should therefore double the size of the police force that had proved itself unable to cope with it; to reward a city government that has spent the last three decades on absurd, disruptive and dangerous physical planning with still more concentrated planning power; to continue to vest the power to educate our children in an administrative system that appears to lag as far behind the human intelligence norm as the children it miseducates do in reading and math — surely this can have little justification in logic. Whatever the potential hazards and liabilities of trying another way, certainly we stand a good chance of escaping some of the known and ever-compounding hazards and liabilities of continuing to do things the same old way. Or has the air pollution that rasps our lungs with the residue of years of faith in the principle of "make no small plans" so addled our brains that we are incapable of doing anything other than more of the same?

Neighborhood government is another way. It is not a utopian scheme but a pragmatic approach. After all, outside our big cities it is the norm. It is in the major cities that we have most turned our back on popular consensus as a prerequisite to action. And we have little to show for our rejection of democratic government, our tacit surrender to government by technocracy, other than the worst crime, the worst pollution, the worst schools and the greatest alienation from ourselves and our governments.

Neighborhood government is pragmatic economically. We know that the per capita costs of government soar as governmental jurisdictions grow larger than 100,000 - 200,000 residents. There are many possible reasons for this. For one thing, the DC government has nearly 50,000 employees. It is larger than the entire town of Rockville or Charlottesville and twice the size of Frederick, Md. In a sense, it is a town in itself and it serves itself before it serves the rest of us. For another thing, the larger the jurisdiction, the greater the tendency to deal with problems through the application of money and bureaucracy. Imagination narrows into a budget item; the specific offspring of the budget item becomes far less important than the fact that it costs X dollars and competes with other budget items. When it comes time to plan next year's program for the DC government, the mayor turns first to Comer Copple and Kenneth Back, his financial advisors, and only secondarily to those whose responsibilities it is to carry out the programs sketched in the budget.

Small government works differently. It tends to be oriented more towards the program. Note, for example, the current furor over teacher reassignments in the DC school system. The central administration owes its first allegiance to a balanced budget and to the intricate solution of equalization problems far more simply resolved by giving each neighborhood or school a fair distribution of the total budget to spend as it wishes. As former school board president Marion Barry has noted, the school board spends the better part of its time dealing with budget issues — not program matters. Yet it has become obvious during the dispute that the schools have been far more creative and intelligent in their budget planning than has the central administration and their anger is heightened by having their carefully designed and specific plans washed away in the effort to bail out the central office. The cry at the local level is: tell us early enough how much money we have and let us plan what to do with it. It is not a selfish demand but a highly rational one. I attended a PTA meeting the other night at which the chaos created by teacher reassignments was discussed. It did not take long before someone pointed out that while we must deal with the issue, we must also continue to teach the children no matter what happens. A committee was formed to seek volunteers to help fill in the gaps caused by the transfer. Who is going to volunteer to help out Barbara Sizemore? Big government doesn't work that way.

There are numerous other examples. Trash pickup may be best handled at the citywide level (although this is far from clear) but neighborhood governments might be far more effective handling the job of street cleaning. A huge sanitation agency simply doesn't know which alleys need cleaning when. It has a schedule, but trash doesn't pile up on schedule. Social services requiring individual attention are also better handled by government agencies closer to those involved. The same goes for recreational programs. In each case, not only would service be improved but the job could be done for less money.

Neighborhood government is also pragmatic politically. Much of the political dissatisfaction at the local level comes from the inability of residents to make their feelings known at city hall. Problems are specific; big city government is by its nature general. If you don't fit the average or the model you get left behind. Further, because of the heavy work load of city council members, political decisions invariably get made by appointed administrators. There are two problems with this:

- 1) The solution may not be very good.
- 2) The process of reaching a consensus is short-circuited.

One ignores the political system at considerable risk. It is something that planners, administrators and consultants have repeatedly failed to realize. No matter how good the apparent solution may be, its success hinges on the willingness of human beings to adapt to it and make use of it. Metro can increase its service 12% but if, as a result, only 2% more people ride the buses (as is the case) not only does the solution fail, it creates additional problems, in this instance still greater deficits.

Additionally, the cumulative effect of years of decisions made without seeking the consensus of those concerned creates the sort of intense alienation that may manifest itself at one extreme in urban riots or, in a more benign example, the growing size of damage awards being made by local juries in cases involving the government.

No matter how painful and slow the democratic approach may appear at first, it stands a far better chance of producing effective projects and programs combined with a growth rather than a diminishing of the community esprit de corps.

— SAM SMITH

(To be continued. Next month: a look at neighborhood government and planning, the neighborhood's role in law and justice, and neighborhood government as the infrastructure for statehood.)



# THROUGH DC BY BUS



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